



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

***Raised Bill No. 5577***

LCO No. 1945

\*01945\_\_\_\_\_ED\_\*

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAMS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) The State Board of  
2 Education may recognize a school that meets the standards for  
3 international education programs developed by the international  
4 education advisory committee, in accordance with the provisions of  
5 subsection (b) of section 10-27 of the general statutes, as amended by  
6 this act. Any such school may announce and declare such recognition  
7 status.

8 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall, annually, within available  
9 appropriations, award a grant in the amount of fifty thousand dollars  
10 to a local or regional board of education that operates a school  
11 recognized pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such board shall  
12 use the funds to support the international education programs at such  
13 school.

14 (c) The State Board of Education may recognize sister school  
15 partnership programs between public schools of this state and foreign  
16 schools that meet criteria as established in accordance with the

17 provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-27 of the general statutes, as  
18 amended by this act. Within available appropriations, participation in  
19 such partnership shall allow the foreign school access to state  
20 programs of professional development and technical assistance  
21 programs under the same terms and conditions as for public schools of  
22 this state.

23 Sec. 2. Section 10-27 of the general statutes, as amended by section  
24 40 of public act 03-76, is repealed and the following is substituted in  
25 lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

26 (a) It shall be the policy of the state to encourage its students,  
27 teachers, administrators and educational policy makers to participate  
28 in international studies, international exchange programs and other  
29 activities that advance cultural awareness and promote mutual  
30 understanding and respect for the citizens of other countries.

31 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall establish an international  
32 education advisory committee to explore international opportunities  
33 for learning, exchange programs and the availability of curriculum  
34 materials for students, teachers, administrators and educational policy  
35 makers. The advisory committee shall:

36 (1) Investigate [investigate] and compile information concerning  
37 international education programs and opportunities. The committee  
38 shall make recommendations to the commissioner on the expansion of  
39 international education programs and opportunities and shall consider  
40 ways to encourage participation in such programs. The committee  
41 shall advise the Department of Education and the joint standing  
42 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
43 relating to education on international program opportunities and the  
44 availability of federal or nonprofit agency funding for such programs.  
45 The department shall provide information on international education  
46 opportunities to local and regional boards of education;

47 (2) Develop guidelines and standards to aide local and regional

48 boards of education in the establishment of programs of international  
49 studies. Such guidelines and standards shall describe the essential  
50 components of a quality educational program incorporating  
51 international education concepts. The committee shall submit such  
52 guidelines and standards to the State Board of Education for review  
53 and approval;

54 (3) Develop criteria for what constitutes a sister school partnership  
55 program between a public school of this state and a foreign school.  
56 Such criteria shall provide a process for recognition of such  
57 partnership. The committee shall submit such criteria to the State  
58 Board of Education for review and approval;

59 (4) Advise the State Board of Education on possible incentives to  
60 encourage the formation of partnerships that meet criteria established  
61 in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (3) of this subsection.  
62 Such incentives may include, but need not be limited to, cooperation  
63 between sister partnership schools in teacher certification, student  
64 assessment programs and recognition of student course credit,  
65 participation in summer programs and in other areas where the state  
66 could recognize the value of the sister school partnership relationships  
67 with minimal cost.

68 (c) State agencies, including the educational institutions, may  
69 exchange a limited number of professional personnel and students  
70 with institutions of other states and other countries and may pay the  
71 salaries of such personnel and may assign scholarships and grants-in-  
72 aid to the exchangees. The authorized exchange of personnel and  
73 students need not be parallel and simultaneous nor specific with  
74 regard to the assignment of persons between institutions. If a vacancy  
75 exists on the staff of any state agency, including the educational  
76 institutions, because a leave of absence without pay has been granted,  
77 such agency may engage the services of professional personnel of  
78 other countries, and may pay such personnel so engaged from the  
79 funds which otherwise would have been paid to such staff members

80 on leave of absence without pay.

81 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-29a of the general statutes, as  
82 amended by section 1 of public act 03-29 and section 1 of public act 03-  
83 79, is amended by adding subdivision (49) as follows (*Effective July 1,*  
84 *2004*):

85 (NEW) (49) The Governor shall proclaim the third week of  
86 November of each year, or such other week if in conjunction with a  
87 federally recognized international education week, to be "International  
88 Education Week" for the purpose of encouraging schools to participate  
89 in programs of international education. Suitable exercises shall be held  
90 in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor designates for the  
91 observance of the week.

92 Sec. 4. Section 10-17 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
93 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

94 The medium of instruction and administration in all public and  
95 private elementary schools shall be the English language, except that  
96 instruction as provided in sections 10-17a and 10-17f may be given in  
97 any language other than English to any pupil who, by reason of  
98 foreign birth, ancestry or otherwise, experiences difficulty in reading  
99 and understanding English, or for any pupil who is proficient in  
100 English and desires to learn another language or culture through  
101 immersion instruction.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

**Statement of Purpose:**

To encourage the development of international education opportunities and programs.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*